4th April 1953]

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir; they are expected to wear clean dress, and steps are being taken by the Superintendent to supply the necessary material."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Are these uniforms to be made out of handloom cloth or from khadi? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Khadi, Sir."

Bench Court in Cuddalore, South Arcot.

* 288 *Q.*—SRI A. GOVINDASAMI NAYAGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reasons for abolishing the Bench Court in Cuddalore Old Town, South Arcot; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any mahazar from the rate-payers of Cuddalore for re-establishing the Bench Court; and if so, what action has been taken by the Government?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) The District Magistrate (Judicial), South Arcot, reported that there was not enough work to justify the continuance of this Bench Court and that the working of the Bench Court was also not satisfactory. The Bench Court was therefore abolished as recommended by the High Court.

" (*b*) Yes. In view of the report of the District Magistrate (Judicial), South Arcot, no action was considered necessary on the representation."

Alleged disappearance of a child in Kasturba Memorial Hospital, Madras.

* 289 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether one Maragatham was admitted as in-patient in Kasturba Memorial Hospital, Madras, in August 1952;

(*b*) whether her two-year-old child was admitted in the Children's ward;

(*c*) whether the child was found subsequently missing and the fact hidden from the mother for more than two months; and

(*d*) whether any enquiry, police or departmental, was instituted and, if so, the result?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) *to* (*d*) The mother of the child referred to was admitted for treatment in the Government Kasturba Gandhi Hospital for Women and Children, Madras. As there was no one to look after the child, it was taken into the children's surgical ward on 16th June 1952 though no treatment was required for it. On the evening of 18th June 1952, the nurse pupil on duty discovered that the child was missing while she was distributing diet. She made a search for the child and not finding it, reported the matter

to the hospital authorities who informed the Police. The Police notified the missing of the child and made local enquiries but the child could not be traced. As the mother of the child was too ill at the time, she was not informed about her missing child immediately. This is a sad case. Suitable instructions for undertaking detailed measures necessary to prevent the occurrence of such extraordinary incidents in future have since been issued to the Director of Medical Services."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Is it not the duty of the Government to see that the child which was admitted in the Children's Ward when the mother was ailing and was in the hospital, when found to be missing and representations were made by the mother as well as the father of the child, which was the only child and the whole future of the family, was in safe custody, and what action have the Government taken to relieve the family's grief and loss? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As I said, steps have been taken to prevent such incidents in the future."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—"In view of this and many other similar complaints raised on the floor of this Assembly, and since they have been brought to the notice of the Government, will the Government realize that life has become insecure and intolerable inside the hospitals in the State and will the Government be pleased to appoint a non-official committee to conduct an open enquiry into the administration of these institutions? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This is the only incident of its kind, and I have already said that all necessary steps have been taken in the matter to prevent such mishaps in the future."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of giving compensation to the family? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No such necessity has arisen so far, and it has not been considered."

Compensation to the family of P.C. No. 526 of Tanjore district.

* 290 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that a Police Constable No. 526, named Shanmugam of Tanjore District Reserve Force, died on 28th October 1952 at about 7 a.m. all of a sudden while on Road March;

(b) whether the family of the constable is eligible for any compensation ; and

(c) if so, what will be the amount?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (a) The report received from the District Superintendent of Police, Tanjore, shows that constable No. 726, Shanmugam of the Armed